



# Project-Based Learning at Heather

Just a glimpse at some of the projects that  
students worked on this fall.

# What is PBL?

*In Project Based Learning (PBL), students go through an extended process of inquiry in response to a complex question, problem, or challenge*



# ***Rigorous, meaningful and effective Project Based Learning:***

- *is intended to teach significant content.*
- *requires critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and various forms of communication.*
- *requires inquiry as part of the process of learning and creating something new.*
- *is organized around and open-ended Driving Question.*
- *creates a need to know essential content and skills.*
- *allows some degree of student voice and choice.*
- *includes processes for revision and reflection.*
- *Involves a public audience.*

# Design Team

August 2013- District Design Team of 13 teachers, including Heather's:

- Sheila Sevilla
- Heidi Geiges

Participated in a one week Summer Intensive, centered around 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning, PBL, and the district's Strategic Plan, with continued P.D. and follow-through activities throughout the year.



# Buck Institute P.D.

In October **Sheila. Sevilla** and **Heidi Geiges**, along with 3 other Heather teachers, **Michelle. Marino, Jennifer Spotorno** and **Nancy Silver** participated in a 3-day PBL training with the Buck Institute.

- Responsible for implementing PBL and sharing back with staff and district their progress, successes and challenges.

# 4<sup>th</sup> Grade PBL “Composting”

Driving Question:

*"How can we, as 4th grade leaders,  
educate our school  
community on how to compost  
at Heather School?"*



# Composting PBL





# 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Classroom Presentations (sample schedule)

## Friday, December 13

- 10:20-10:50--Room 3 Kinders in Room 3
- 10:20-10:50--Room 3 First Graders in Room 13
- 10:50-11::20--Room 1 Kinders in Room 1

## Monday, December 16

- 8:40-9:10--Room 6 First Graders in Room 6
- 8:40-9:10--Room 17 Second Graders in Room 17
- 8:40-9:10--Room 15 Third Graders in Room 15
- 8:40-9:10--Room 15 Third Graders in Room 13



# Practicing





# Kindergarten Presentation





# Kindergarten Presentation





# 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Presentation



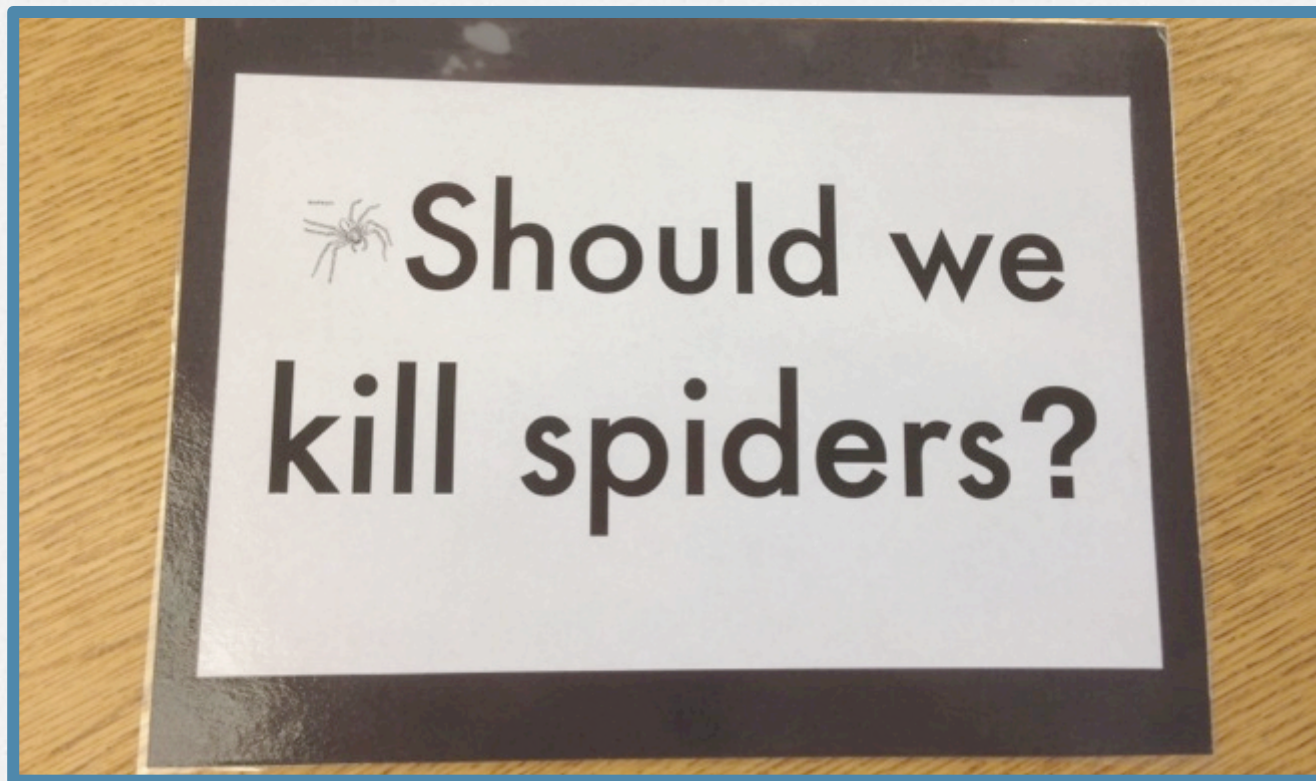


# 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Helpers at Lunch

Place Holder

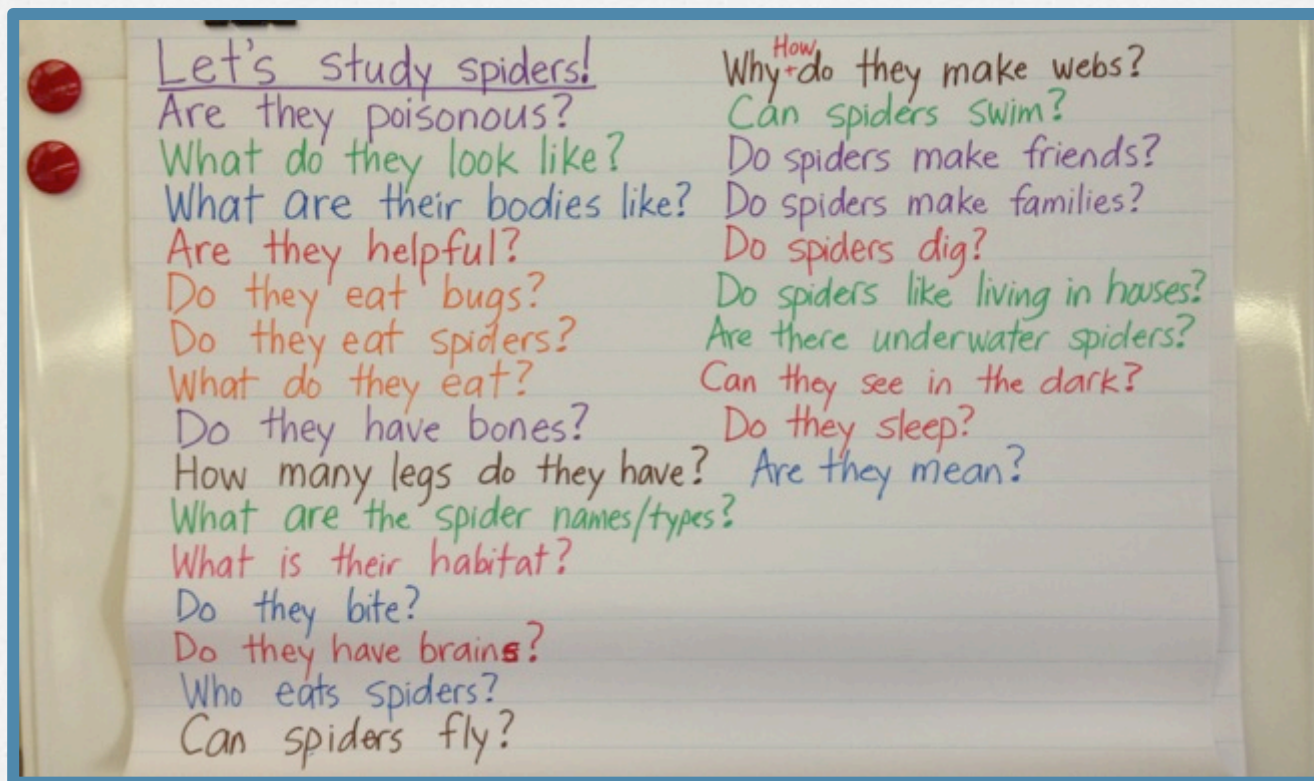
Is there a Photo of 4<sup>th</sup> graders helping with composting

# Kindergarten PBL





What do we need to know about in order to answer our driving question?





# Observations



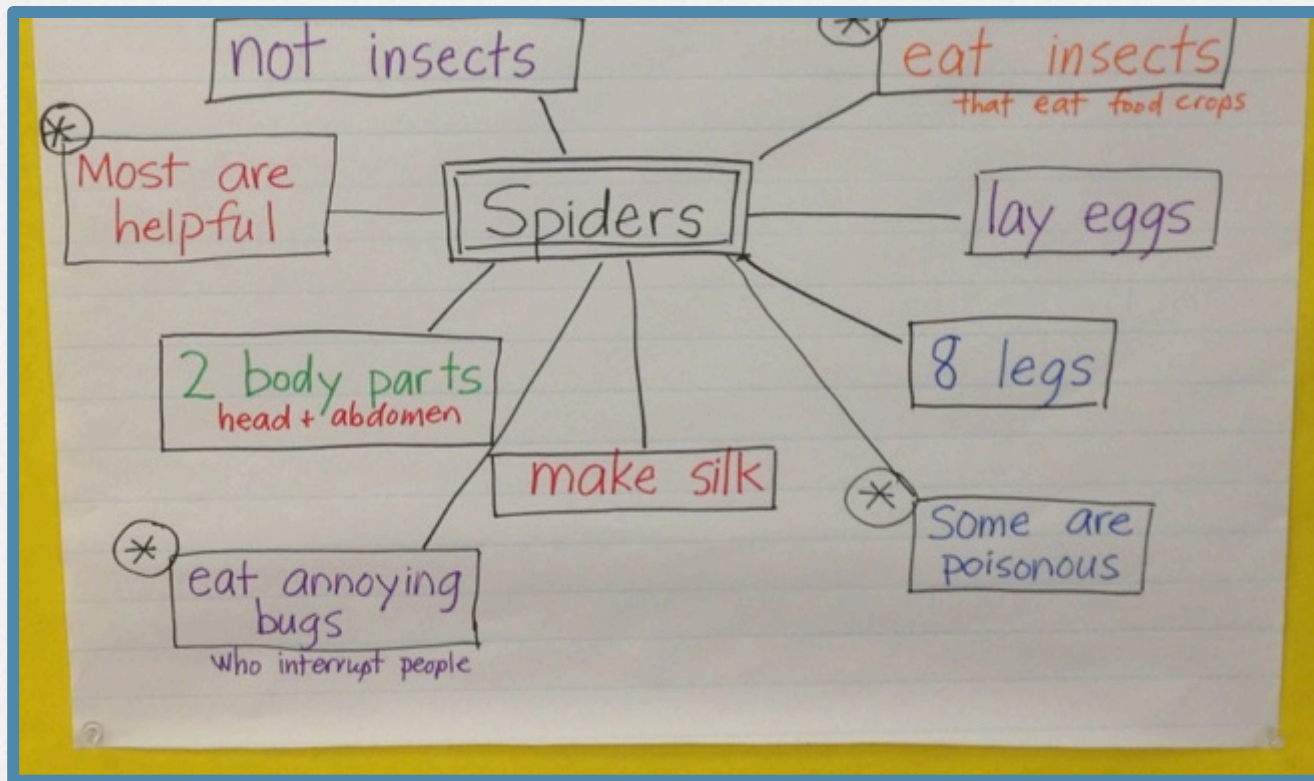


# Finding Insects to Feed Spiders



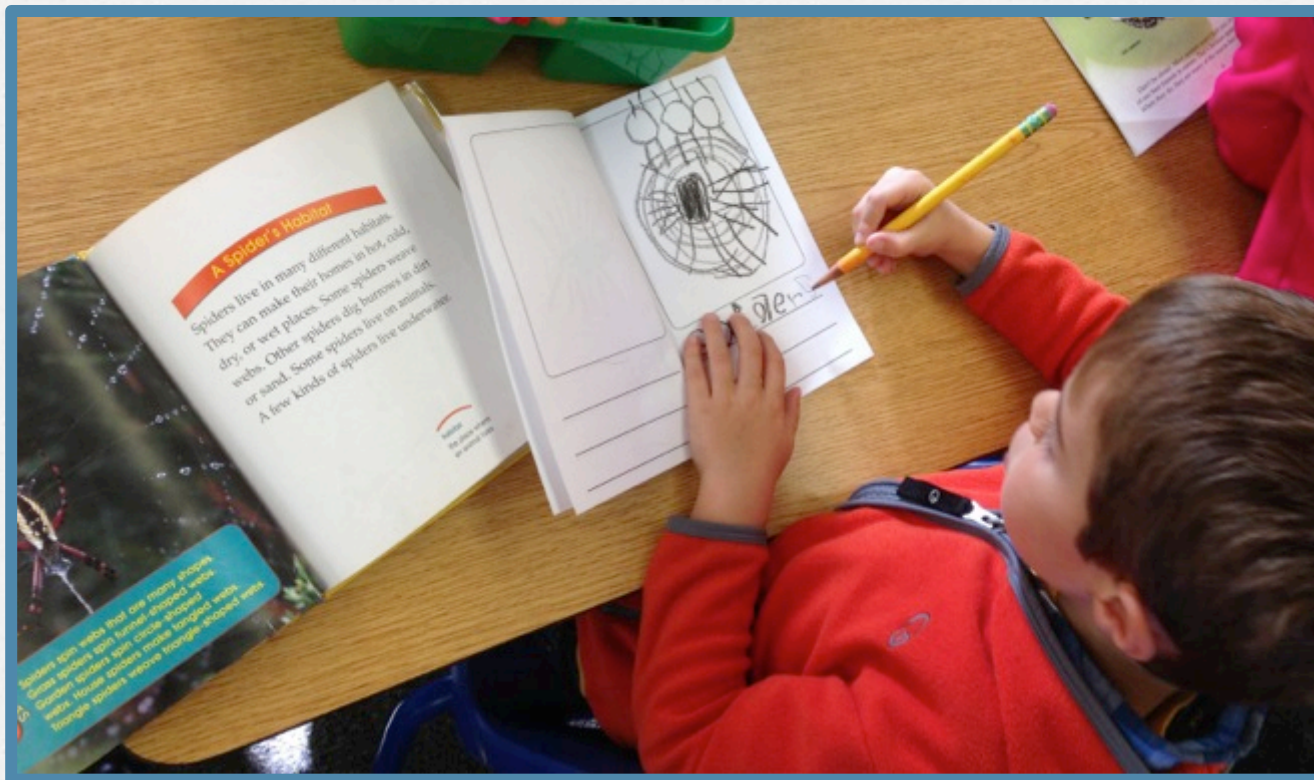


# Researching



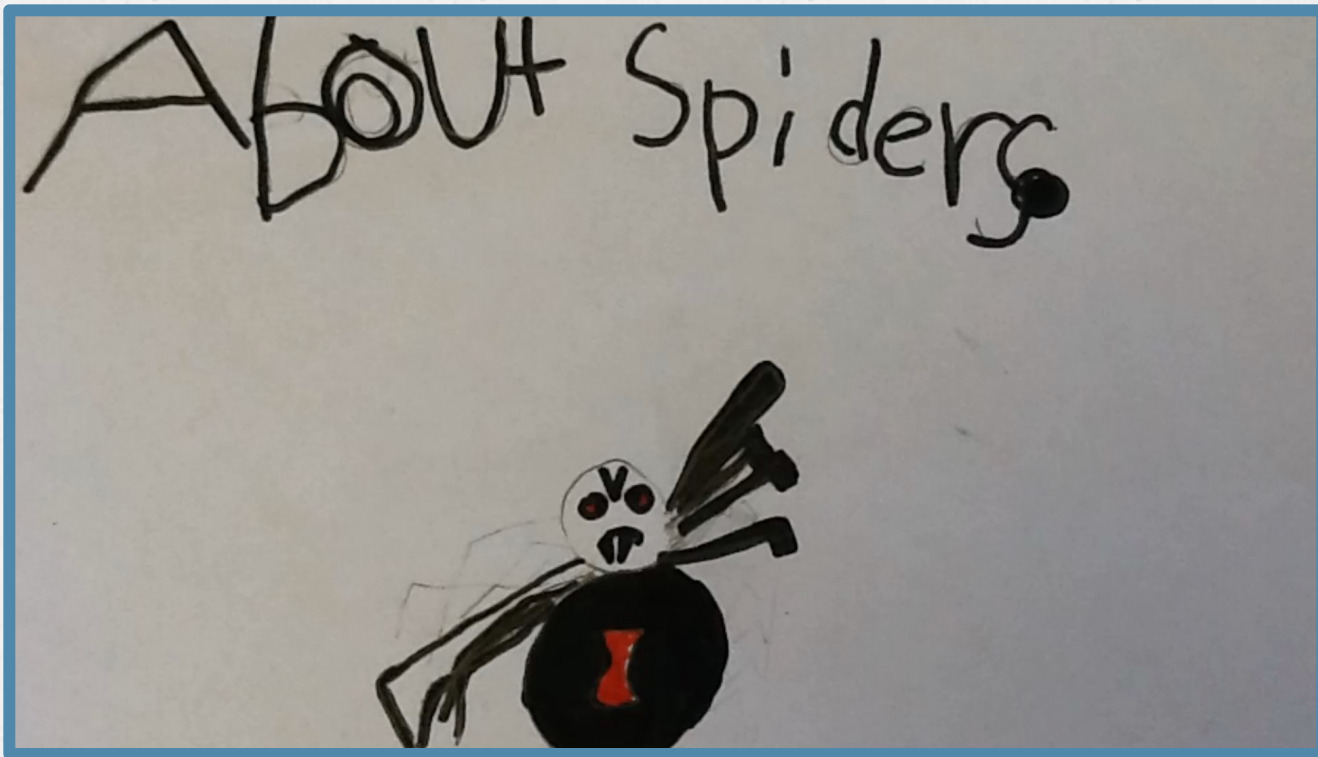


# Writing Non-fiction





# Using iMovie & Presenting to a Public Audience





# 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Project

## Day in the Life of a 3<sup>rd</sup> Grader in 1963



# Driving Question: Design a School Day from 1963

- Students created interview questions, and found a family member or friend who was in school at the time to interview.
- They gathered interview information, as well as information from the internet, and books.
- They designed an entire day as though it was 1963.



# Designing a School Day from 1963

- The children worked in interest based groups planning each subject in the curriculum that would be presented, this included: science, arithmetic, reading, writing, PE, cursive, and music as well as discipline.
- They also planned the classroom layout, food and fashion.
- The students wrote all of the parent communication, and some of them emailed staff to invite them to participate.

# Mrs. Barton's Arithmetic Lesson





# *What is the most helpful insect?*

Opinions on insects written by  
Room 20

# *Coollest Bug* *by India Rose*

- I think the ant is the most helpful insect because they swish dirt around and they also protect the seeds from predators that would like to eat the seeds. They eat pests eggs too. Moving the dirt makes it easier for plants to grow. The ant is very helpful to me!







# What Insect Is the Most Helpful?

By Room 17

# Dragonflies

By Anya

- In my opinion the dragonfly is the most helpful insect. First, the dragonfly eats water bugs which are bad for the water. Next, they eat bugs so there are less pests on the earth and if we did not have dragonflies we would have to deal with the bugs instead of dragonflies dealing with them. Last, the dragonfly hunts in the air, too, and that is helpful to the air. Dragonflies are the best.







# Ants

## By Lauren

- In my opinion, ants are the most helpful insect. First of all, they help our plants to grow and protect them too. Next, they keep soil healthy to grow. Last, they take care of seeds so they keep growing. Ants are helpful.





# K/1<sup>st</sup> Project

## Designing a Farm

### Driving Question:

*"If you were going to design a farm,  
what would you need?"*

The K/1<sup>st</sup> students in Rooms 3 & 5 researched animals in groups and then presented them to their peers. They are currently building 3-D models of what their farms would look like.

# Presentations

